

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 59

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING THE FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE, ENCOURAGING HEALTHY, IDAHO GROWN FOOD PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION IN THE STATE OF IDAHO, SUPPORT OF IDAHO FARMING AND THE CONSUMPTION OF IDAHO GROWN FOODS AND FURTHER ENCOURAGING IDAHOANS AND IDAHO BUSINESSES TO CELEBRATE AND GET TO KNOW THEIR GROWERS AND TO PURCHASE AND CONSUME MORE FOOD PRODUCED IN OR NEAR IDAHO.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho recognizes the industriousness of Idaho farmers and ranchers throughout Idaho's history who have been and continue to be of major importance to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, with Idaho's climate, soil and water, farmers and ranchers have created an agriculture that is famous around the world and Idaho-raised vegetables, fruits, grains, meats, dairy and eggs have an outstanding reputation for quality and flavor; and

WHEREAS, in the years preceding 1960, Idaho farmers grew a large percentage of the food eaten in the state. There has, however, been a gradual shift away from eating locally grown foods. Today a majority of the food eaten by Idahoans is not from Idaho. It is prudent to seek a better balance, recognizing the importance of the agricultural products that are exported outside of the state, which help the farming community and support jobs. However, it is also important to recognize that part of the balance is the increasing trend of Idaho farms to produce food for Idaho consumption; and

WHEREAS, populations whose diets are high in fruits and vegetables experience better health, with lower rates of obesity and related chronic conditions. The ability to grow, sell and easily obtain a consistent, adequate supply of fresh food can increase food security and empower families and communities to be more healthy and self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, small business is the backbone of Idaho's economy and Idaho food production can help promote entrepreneurism and self-sufficiency in Idaho's small towns, revitalizing regional small farms, creating jobs, business opportunities and the recirculation of capital within Idaho. Idaho has already undertaken beginning steps to increase the amount of Idaho grown food available to Idaho consumers through the Idaho Department of Agriculture's Idaho Preferred™ program and the University of Idaho Extension Service has undertaken steps to encourage family food production through such programs as Master Gardeners, Master Food Preservers, Master Composters and Victory Garden.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that in order to promote the economic vitality and public health and safety of Idaho communities, provide incentives for job creation, attract economic investment, increase state per

1 capita income, support the future of agriculture and promote the health and
2 economic security of Idaho citizens and communities, it encourages healthy,
3 Idaho grown food production, distribution and consumption in the State of
4 Idaho.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it encourages the promotion of greater food
6 self-sufficiency within the state and the recognition that it is beneficial
7 to Idaho families, Idaho businesses, Idaho jobs and our state's economy to
8 increase this self-sufficiency. It also encourages all Idahoans and Idaho
9 businesses to celebrate and get to know their growers and to purchase and
10 consume more food that is produced in or near Idaho and their own kitchen
11 pantries and dinner tables.